Why Trump is Losing Seniors as Covid Cases in America Skyrocket to Over 50,000 Daily w/Nora Super

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Tony Odarg October 11, 2020

There were two very good articles I will quote from on the problem of Trump and seniors. The first question that many have asked is why Trump is losing seniors in recent polling. According to LA Times:

> But whatever improvement (in senior approval) he saw is now in jeopardy. The president's own COVID-19 infection has refocused attention on the virus and his handling of it. If the 74-year-old Trump can't safeguard his own health, some wonder, how can he be trusted to protect other older people who are far more vulnerable?

Trump won seniors in 2016 and most republicans have. Are these news polls outliers and how bad are they. From Politico:

> In 2016, exit polls showed that 52 percent of voters ages 65 and older supported Trump. This year, polling suggests they've lurched heavily against him. A CNN poll this week showed Trump winning over just 39 percent of the same age group, compared to 60 percent who support Joe Biden — the latest in a series of polls showing seniors breaking in favor of Joe Biden.

So, it is bad. I mean, its really bad. But is it just covid? Nora Super, the senior director of the Milken Institute's Center for the Future of Aging, thinks not:

> “Covid set us back, unfortunately, on some of the negative stereotypes about aging,” says Super. “We’ve seen the pervasive ageism in our society, and that has energized older people to say, ‘Hey, I’m not dead yet.’”

One should obviously mention in all fairness to Trump that he is not singlehandedly responsible for the shit job America has done with Covid. We have less than 5% of the world’s population yet 25% of the Covid cases. If Biden wins seniors he will be the first Democrat in twenty-years to do so:

> Ten thousand people turn 65 every day in America. And Baby Boomers — they go from age 56 to 72 — that’s a huge number of people. But then as you look at the differences between people who are at the tail end of the baby boom — like I am — and those who were on the leading edge — who are old enough to have taken part in the March on Washington, the Vietnam War, etc. — the issues that engage “older” voters today aren’t necessarily the same that did even four years ago.

In other words, because of Covid and Trump himself, seniors have different priorities. How so? Well:

> A majority of voters ages 65 and up haven’t voted for a Democratic presidential candidate since Al Gore — it’s been two decades — and the trend has been that people get more conservative as they get older. The two things really changing that in this election are: one, that Trump doesn’t fit the mold of most conservatives in terms of traditional beliefs and fiscal responsibility, things that people have typically associated with Republicans and with older voters, and, two, Covid-19.

This comes on the heels of a nation reeling from a ginormous spike in Covid cases, not seen since August. CNN has the numbers:

> Johns Hopkins University (JHU) reported 57,420 new positive cases in the United States on Friday.
>
> The tally is the third consecutive day the US has seen more than 50,000 reported daily cases. Here are the figures:
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> Oct. 9: 57,420
>
> Oct. 8: 56,191
>
> Oct. 7: 50,341
>
> The last time the US reported more than 50,000 cases for three consecutive days was in mid-August, according to data from the university.
>
> Aug. 14: 64,601
>
> Aug. 13: 51,977
>
> Aug. 12: 57,004

As seniors are the most at risk of Covid and given that Trump is seen as the face of the response to it, like it or not, it is Trump who will take the blame. Remember also that seniors are pretty much the only group that watches cable news. Endlessly hearing about how bad Trump is doing (most of which is one sided, I'm talking to you Cuomo!) will have an effect on their voting. As someone mentioned rightly, Trump won most of the swing states by razor-thin margins, mostly due to seniors. How many of those people have died in the past year, just statistically, even regardless of Covid? If the polls stabilize at these new metrics, Trump is likely finished.

Links

La times: https://www.latimes.com/world-nation/story/2020-10-09/a-senior-warning-sign-for-trump-go-biden-cry-at-villages
Archive: https://archive.vn/t7OAR

50k: https://www.wsj.com/articles/coronavirus-latest-updates-101120-11602402513?mod=e2tw
Archive: https://archive.vn/v6nRU

Six states: https://www.nbcnews.com/news/us-news/coronavirus-cases-set-new-single-day-records-six-u-s-n1242828
Archive: https://archive.vn/IU24A

Since Aug: https://thehill.com/policy/healthcare/520336-us-sees-highest-number-of-new-coronavirus-cases-since-august
Archive: https://archive.vn/VJIhg

CNN: https://www.cnn.com/webview/world/live-news/coronavirus-pandemic-10-10-20-intl/h_f5c5a3c83a998df49f61dae054643722
Archive: https://archive.vn/lm2GC

Politico: https://www.politico.com/news/magazine/2020/10/08/senior-citizens-trump-biden-2020-voters-428131
Archive: https://archive.vn/7k6AP

Senior deaths: https://twitter.com/RichardBSpencer/status/1314743052951404545
Archive: https://archive.vn/UPasv